

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 0909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, SN

SUBJ: OFFSHORE SOUTH EAST ASIA PETROLEUM CONFERENCE &
EXHIBITION

REF: 75 SINGAPORE A-183

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FIRST INTERNATIONAL OFFSHORE SOUTH EAST ASIA PETROLEUM CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION WAS HELD IN SINGAPORE FEBRUARY 17-20. EVENT, BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. SOME 385 EXHIBITORS PROMOTED A LARGE VARIETY OF OILFIELD EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES ON AN AREA EXCEEDING 50,000 SQ. FT. AT HYATT HOTEL. APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT OF EXHIBITORS DISPLAYED AMERICAN PRODUCTS OR ITEMS BASED ON U.S. TECHNOLOGY. ACCORDING TO CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS, PETROLEUM NEWS SOUTH EAST ASIA, EXHIBIT AND PARALLEL CONFERENCE ON ASPECTS OF OILFIELD TECHNOLOGY ATTRACTED OVER 16,000 VISITORS, OF WHOM 3,000 WERE FROM OVERSEAS. BRITISH AND DUTCH EMBASSIES BOOKED DISTINCT BLOCKS OF SPACE FOR THEIR EXHIBITORS. ORGANIZERS INTEND TO REPEAT THIS EVENT IN FEBRUARY 1978. SPACE IS ALREADY NEARLY 100 PERCENT BOOKED.

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2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. MANY EXHIBITORS WERE DISAP-

POINTED BY FAILURE OF PRC TO SEND AN OFFICIAL TEAM TO SHOW. SIX CHINESE ENGINEERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN SINGAPORE FOR SOME EIGHT MONTHS (TO OBSERVE BUILDING OF SEVERAL CHINESE OIL RIGS AT ROBIN SHIPYARD) DID, HOWEVER, VISIT SHOW TWICE. ON FIRST DAY, THEY SPENT ABOUT ONE HOUR AND VISITED BOOTHS OF SELECTED SINGAPORE COMPANIES. THEY WERE ESCORTED BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (EDB) OFFICIALS. ON SECOND DAY, GROUP RETURNED FOR THREE HOURS AND WENT FROM STAND TO STAND STUDYING DISPLAYED EQUIPMENT AT SOME LENGTH. CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS DEVOTED TO BOTH COMSATT AND ROLLS ROYCE DISPLAYS.

3. CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS SAID THAT THEY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR SIX MONTHS TO GET PRC TO SEND A DELEGATION. EDB TRIED TO ASSIST IN THIS REGARD, AND ACCORDING TO CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS, GOS HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT PRC WAS WELCOME. INITIALLY, PRC HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEND A DELEGATION IF A PAPER ON EXPLORATION OFFSHORE TAIWAN WOULD BE DELIVERED AT CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THIS APPARENT OBSTACLE DISAPPEARED WHEN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS TO DELIVER TAIWAN PAPER CANCELLED.

4. CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY PRC DID NOT SEND OFFICIAL TEAM, AS MEMBERS OF PRC TRADE DELEGATION VISITING SINGAPORE IN NOVEMBER HAD INDICATED THE PRC WOULD BE SENDING A DELEGATION (SEE REPAIR). ORGANIZERS OF EXHIBIT WERE KNOWN TO PRC FROM ABERDEEN EXHIBITION LAST SEPTEMBER.

5. RUMORS WERE HEARD AT EXHIBIT TO EFFECT THAT PRC HAD ORDERED THREE NEW RIGS, TWO SEMI-SUBMERSIBLES AND ONE JACK-UP FROM FAR EAST LEVINGSTON CO. IN SINGAPORE. INDUSTRY SOURCES AND EMBASSY ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL OF THIS RUMOR. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. HOLDRIDGE

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